



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

TRAFFIC VOLUME TRENDS

August 1996



Travel on all roads and streets is up by 2.9 percent for August 1996 as compared to August 1995.



Estimated Vehicle-Miles of Travel by Region – August 1996 – (in Billions)

West	North Central	South Gulf	Northeast	South Atlantic
48.5	54.9	42.0	36.5	42.5

Change in Traffic as compared to the same month last year.

+2.3%	+3.3%	+3.0%	+1.7%	+4.2%
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Note: All data for this month are preliminary. Revised values for the previous month are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

All vehicle-miles of travel computed with 1994 Table VM-2 as a base

Compiled with data on hand as of October 17, 1996.

Traffic Volume Trends – August 1996

Based on preliminary reports from the State Highway Agencies, travel during August 1996 on all roads and streets in the nation increased by 2.9 percent as compared to August 1995 resulting in estimated travel for the month at 224.4 billion vehicle-miles. This total includes 91.2 billion vehicle-miles on rural roads and 133.2 billion vehicle-miles on urban roads and streets.

Travel for the current month as well the cumulative yearly total on all roads and streets is shown below. Similar totals for each year since 1970 are also included.

Travel in Millions All Roads and Streets		
Year	August	Year to Date
1970	106,969	749,161
1971	112,642	790,731
1972	119,913	849,619
1973	124,426	881,629
1974	124,070	857,786
1975	126,103	888,491
1976	131,913	942,495
1977	136,337	977,074
1978	149,461	1,035,611
1979	139,942	1,023,331
1980	138,666	1,012,541
1981	143,464	1,036,644
1982	153,300	1,063,190
1983	157,649	1,101,649
1984	164,920	1,149,718
1985	169,437	1,187,295
1986	173,977	1,225,904
1987	177,378	1,282,053
1988	184,503	1,351,281
1989	194,172	1,409,867
1990	197,057	1,446,267
1991	204,063	1,457,700
1992	204,073	1,498,118
1993	209,633	1,535,994
1994	215,281	1,572,753
1995	218,019	1,605,103
1996	224,421	1,636,879

Traffic Volume Trends is a monthly report based on hourly traffic count data. These data, collected at approximately 4,000 continuous traffic counting locations nationwide, are used to determine the percent change in traffic for the current month compared to the same month in the previous year. This percent change is applied to the travel for the same month of the previous year to obtain an estimate of travel for the current month.

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FIGURE 1 - MOVING 12-MONTH TOTAL ON ALL HIGHWAYS

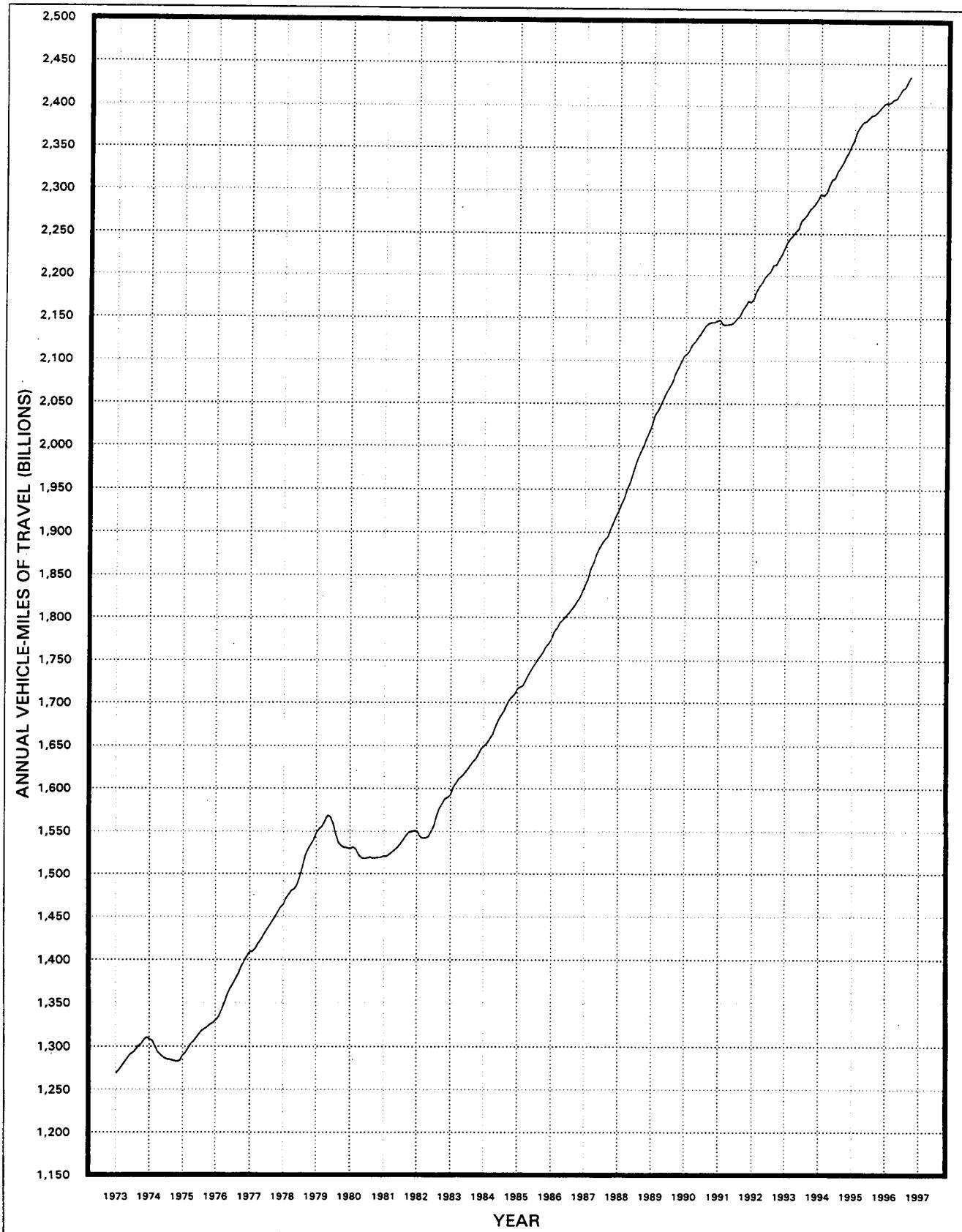


FIGURE 2 - TRAVEL ON U.S. HIGHWAYS BY MONTH

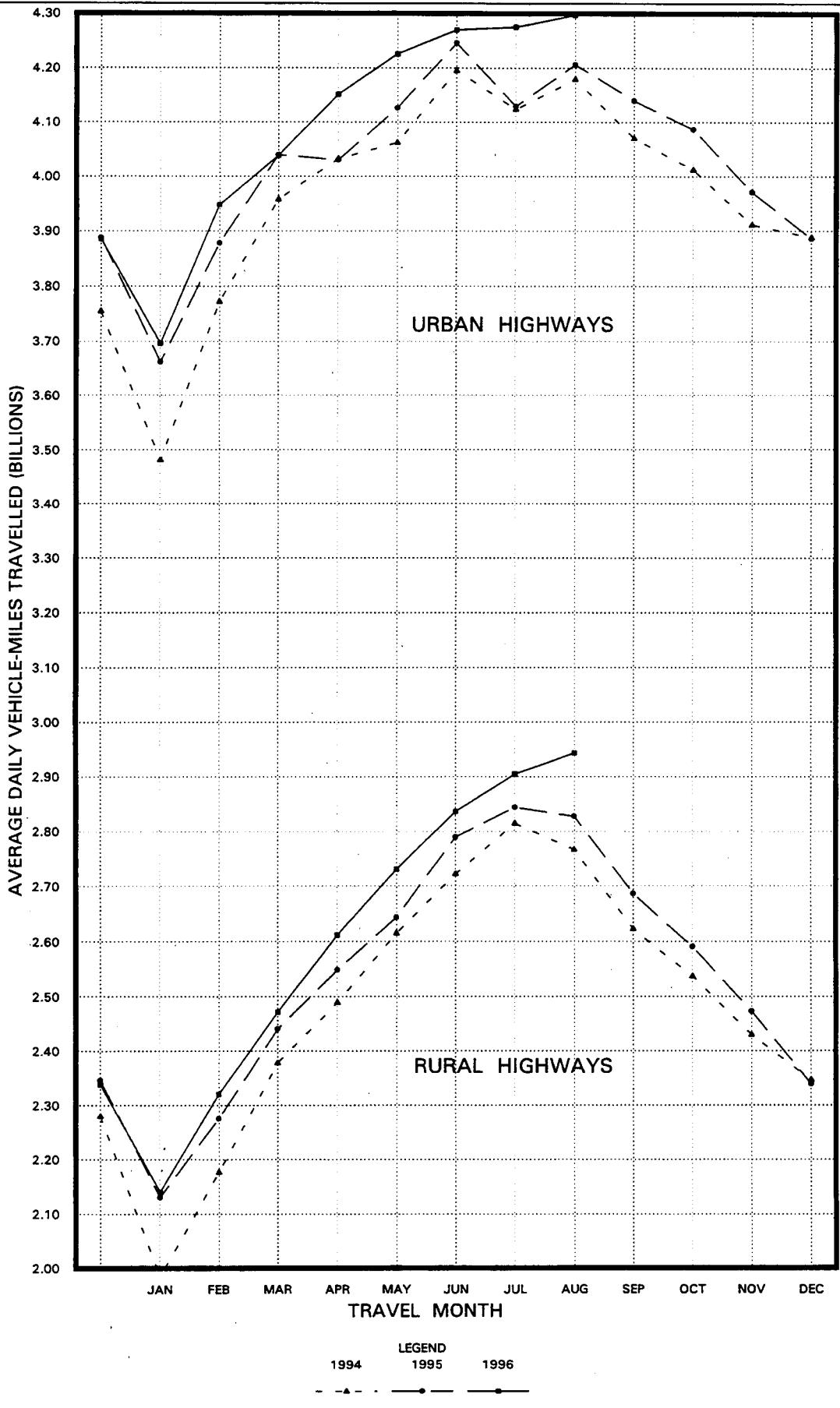


Table 1 – Estimated Individual Monthly Motor Vehicle Travel In The United States

System	Month											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1995 Individual Monthly Vehicle—Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.2	14.8	17.9	18.5	19.3	20.0	21.7	21.3	19.2	19.1	18.1	17.7
Rural Other Arterial	25.8	25.0	29.7	29.8	32.3	33.1	34.8	34.8	32.0	31.8	29.0	28.0
Other Rural	25.0	23.8	28.1	28.1	30.4	30.5	31.7	31.5	29.4	29.5	27.1	26.9
Urban Interstate	25.8	25.2	28.9	27.6	29.2	29.5	29.9	30.6	28.5	29.1	27.8	27.9
Urban Other Arterial	62.7	59.5	68.7	66.4	70.3	69.6	69.4	70.7	68.0	69.6	64.9	66.2
Other Urban	25.0	23.8	27.7	26.9	28.4	28.3	28.7	29.1	27.6	28.0	26.4	26.4
All Systems	179.5	172.3	200.9	197.4	209.9	211.0	216.1	218.0	204.8	207.0	193.3	192.9
1996 Individual Monthly Vehicle—Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.4	15.2	18.5	18.9	20.1	20.7	22.3	22.7				
Rural Other Arterial	25.9	25.5	30.0	30.6	33.3	33.5	35.6	36.1				
Other Rural	25.0	24.3	28.1	28.9	31.2	30.9	32.2	32.4				
Urban Interstate	26.3	25.9	29.0	28.5	30.2	29.8	30.7	31.5				
Urban Other Arterial	63.1	60.4	68.5	68.3	71.6	69.8	72.3	72.0				
Other Urban	25.2	24.2	27.7	27.7	29.3	28.5	29.5	29.7				
All Systems	180.9	175.5	201.8	202.9	215.6	213.2	222.6	224.4				
Percent Change In Individual Monthly Travel 1996 vs. 1995												
Rural Interstate	1.2	2.3	3.7	2.4	4.5	3.2	2.8	6.6				
Rural Other Arterial	0.3	1.9	0.9	2.5	3.1	1.0	2.2	3.7				
Other Rural	0.2	1.9	0.1	2.5	2.7	1.3	1.6	2.8				
Urban Interstate	1.8	2.7	0.5	3.4	3.5	0.9	2.8	3.0				
Urban Other Arterial	0.6	1.4	-0.3	2.8	1.8	0.3	4.1	1.9				
Other Urban	0.8	1.8	0.2	3.1	2.9	0.8	2.9	1.8				
All Systems	0.8	1.9	0.5	2.8	2.8	1.0	3.0	2.9				

Table 2 – Estimated Cumulative Monthly Motor Vehicle Travel In The United States

System	Month											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1995 Cumulative Monthly Vehicle—Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.2	30.1	47.9	66.4	85.7	105.7	127.4	148.7	167.9	187.0	205.1	222.8
Rural Other Arterial	25.8	50.8	80.5	110.4	142.7	175.8	210.6	245.4	277.4	309.2	338.2	366.1
Other Rural	25.0	48.8	76.9	105.1	135.4	165.9	197.6	229.2	258.5	288.0	315.1	341.9
Urban Interstate	25.8	51.1	79.9	107.5	136.7	166.2	196.1	226.7	255.2	284.3	312.1	339.9
Urban Other Arterial	62.7	122.2	190.9	257.4	327.6	397.2	466.6	537.3	605.4	675.0	739.9	806.1
Other Urban	25.0	48.8	76.4	103.3	131.7	160.0	188.7	217.9	245.5	273.5	299.9	326.3
All Systems	179.5	351.8	552.7	750.0	959.9	1170.9	1387.1	1605.1	1809.9	2016.9	2210.2	2403.1
1996 Cumulative Monthly Vehicle—Miles of Travel In Billions *												
Rural Interstate	15.4	30.6	49.1	68.0	88.2	108.9	131.1	153.9				
Rural Other Arterial	25.9	51.4	81.4	112.0	145.3	178.7	214.3	250.3				
Other Rural	25.0	49.3	77.4	106.3	137.5	168.4	200.6	233.0				
Urban Interstate	26.3	52.2	81.2	109.8	140.0	169.8	200.5	232.0				
Urban Other Arterial	63.1	123.4	191.9	260.2	331.8	401.5	473.8	545.9				
Other Urban	25.2	49.4	77.1	104.8	134.1	162.6	192.1	221.8				
All Systems	180.9	356.4	558.2	761.1	976.7	1189.9	1412.5	1636.9				
Percent Change In Cumulative Monthly Travel 1996 vs. 1995												
Rural Interstate	1.2	1.7	2.5	2.5	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.5				
Rural Other Arterial	0.3	1.1	1.0	1.4	1.8	1.7	1.8	2.0				
Other Rural	0.2	1.0	0.7	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.7				
Urban Interstate	1.8	2.2	1.6	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.3				
Urban Other Arterial	0.6	1.0	0.5	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.5	1.6				
Other Urban	0.8	1.3	0.9	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.8				
All Systems	0.8	1.3	1.0	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.8	2.0				

* System entries may not add to give "All Systems" total due to rounding.

Table 3 – Changes On Rural Arterial Roads By Region and State

Region and State	August				July			
	Number of Stations	Vehicle-Miles (Millions)		Percent Change	Number of Stations	Vehicle-Miles (Millions)		Percent Change
		1996 (Preliminary)	1995			1996 (Revised)	1995	
Northeast								
Connecticut	—	413	393	5.2	18	380	383	-0.6
Maine	35	627	607	3.2	35	598	591	1.2
Massachusetts	32	583	554	5.2	19	502	497	0.9
New Hampshire	—	443	424	4.3	58	415	413	0.5
New Jersey	14	688	664	3.5	6	659	649	1.6
New York	—	1,741	1,678	3.7	42	1,663	1,651	0.7
Pennsylvania	49	2,680	2,593	3.4	29	2,388	2,381	0.3
Rhode Island	—	63	60	5.2	—	59	58	0.8
Vermont	32	290	276	4.8	31	272	269	0.8
		7,527	7,250	3.8		6,935	6,891	0.6
South Atlantic								
Delaware	—	169	165	2.2	22	178	180	-0.9
Dist Of Columbia	—	0	0	0.0	—	0	0	0.0
Florida	173	2,213	2,071	6.9	179	2,226	2,161	3.0
Georgia	36	2,076	1,931	7.5	41	2,080	2,009	3.5
Maryland	—	916	886	3.4	—	880	883	-0.4
North Carolina	—	1,976	1,896	4.2	—	1,968	1,939	1.5
South Carolina	—	1,581	1,472	7.4	13	1,579	1,584	-0.3
Virginia	—	1,892	1,845	2.6	9	1,810	1,831	-1.2
West Virginia	—	822	783	5.0	—	795	781	1.8
		11,644	11,049	5.4		11,516	11,369	1.3
North Central								
Illinois	33	1,920	1,828	5.0	32	1,822	1,785	2.1
Indiana	—	1,706	1,613	5.8	26	1,595	1,556	2.5
Iowa	125	1,135	1,095	3.6	125	1,118	1,093	2.3
Kansas	66	848	810	4.8	62	821	810	1.3
Michigan	—	2,106	1,956	7.7	—	2,040	1,976	3.2
Minnesota	—	1,457	1,378	5.8	—	1,424	1,386	2.7
Missouri	—	1,694	1,616	4.8	—	1,683	1,643	2.4
Nebraska	30	688	662	3.9	28	678	664	2.1
North Dakota	30	305	302	1.0	37	317	313	1.1
Ohio	50	2,044	1,910	7.0	48	1,968	1,875	5.0
South Dakota	44	436	422	3.4	45	446	424	5.1
Wisconsin	118	1,909	1,762	8.3	118	1,896	1,855	2.2
		16,248	15,355	5.8		15,808	15,380	2.8
South Gulf								
Alabama	—	1,372	1,307	5.0	—	1,416	1,371	3.3
Arkansas	—	1,003	976	2.7	—	1,072	1,036	3.5
Kentucky	41	1,189	1,136	4.6	36	1,204	1,155	4.3
Louisiana	—	1,161	1,093	6.2	—	1,151	1,105	4.2
Mississippi	67	1,049	998	5.1	67	1,049	1,008	4.0
Oklahoma	—	1,043	982	6.2	—	1,048	1,009	3.8
Tennessee	13	1,727	1,707	1.2	20	1,780	1,735	2.6
Texas	116	3,599	3,381	6.5	116	3,693	3,538	4.4
		12,142	11,580	4.9		12,411	11,957	3.8
West								
Alaska	47	132	131	0.2	46	141	141	-0.5
Arizona	—	973	929	4.7	—	976	934	4.5
California	16	3,732	3,616	3.2	14	3,712	3,550	4.6
Colorado	—	1,018	975	4.4	—	1,001	988	1.2
Hawaii	—	132	131	1.2	—	135	131	3.5
Idaho	139	490	473	3.6	126	483	471	2.5
Montana	42	574	567	1.2	43	578	579	-0.0
Nevada	38	365	362	1.0	40	363	360	1.0
New Mexico	—	571	536	6.5	65	598	593	0.8
Oregon	123	1,127	1,101	2.4	124	1,113	1,080	3.1
Utah	65	571	539	6.0	64	558	555	0.5
Washington	49	1,112	1,063	4.6	51	1,052	1,041	1.1
Wyoming	120	442	431	2.4	—	447	438	1.9
		11,240	10,855	3.5		11,157	10,862	2.7
TOTALS		58,800	56,088	4.8		57,828	56,459	2.4

Note: Where Number of Stations are shown as dashes, the values for Vehicle-Miles and Percent Change are derived from the estimated VMT based on data from surrounding States or the Nationwide average VMT.